

Remarks

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption as amended, pursuant to and consistent with the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases, and in light of the remarks which follow, is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claims 2 and 3 have been deleted so that claims 1, 4-11, 15-18, and 20-21 will remain pending upon entry of the amendment.

Claims 1-10, 15-18, and 20-21, stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a), as being obvious over Aga (A: PTO- 892, 2/1/2007) in view of Mandai (US 6,005,100) and Zaffaroni (US 3,876,816) and Kasori (JP 60188036 A-abstract). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has indicated in the present office action that claim 11 is allowable. The Examiner has further suggested that claim 1 be amended so as to appropriately incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 3 therein and that claim 1, amended as such, would be allowable over the prior art of record.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 therein and deleted claims 2 and 3 accordingly. Therefore, as indicated by the Examiner, claim 1 is patentable over the prior art. Claims 4-10, 15-18, and 20-21 depend from claim 1 and are likewise allowable

For at least the reasons noted above, withdrawal of the record rejection of claims 1-10, 15-18, and 20-21, under 35 USC § 103 (a), as being obvious over Aga in view of Mandai, Zaffaroni, and Kasori and allowance of all claims of record is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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